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SUBJECT: INSTRUCTION: JOIN CONSENSUS UNGA 3C RESOLUTION
"FOLLOW-UP TO THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
YEAR OF THE FAMILY AND BEYOND"

REF: MERCADO-DEPARTMENT EMAIL 10/21/2009 4:23 PM

¶1. The Department authorizes USDEL to join consensus on the resolution entitled "Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond," provided the resolution text does not change significantly from the wording contained in REFTEL to negatively affect vital U.S. interests.

¶2. In addition, Department understands that the EU intends to give an EOP on the phrase 'various forms of the family' which did not make it into REFTEL. The U.S. also supported incorporating this phrase into the resolution. USDEL should deliver an EOP, drawing from the following points:

BEGIN POINTS.

"The United States is pleased to join consensus on this resolution. We recognize the importance of the family. The Cairo Programme of Action states that the family is the basic unit of society and that various forms of the family exist in different cultural, political and social systems.

When proclaiming September 28, 2009 as Family Day, President Obama stated that "children raised in loving, caring homes have the ability to reject negative behaviors and reach their highest potential," and that "whether children are raised by two parents, a single parent, grandparents, a same-sex couple, or a guardian, families encourage us to do our best and enable us to accomplish great things."

In that spirit, the U.S. would have preferred if the phrase 'various forms of the family' had been included in the text. Consistent with the Cairo Programme of Action, we understand this phrase to include the extended families, as well as single-headed households, common in many parts of the world."

END POINTS.
CLINTON